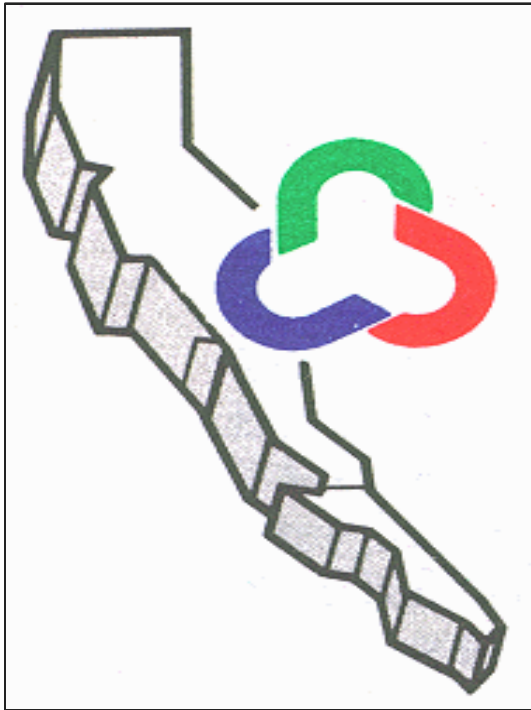


The Californias Border Environmental Cooperation Committee (*Cal/BECC*)



With the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the governments of the United States and Mexico reached an agreement on binational mechanisms to facilitate border environmental cleanup and provide additional support for community adjustment and investment. This agreement ensures that the US and Mexico will work together to address the environmental problems that plague the border region between our two countries. The border region is defined as 100 kilometers north and south of the US-Mexico border.

As a result of the agreement, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADBank) were created. BECC assists border states, local communities and private investors in coordinating, designing and financing environmental infrastructure projects with cross-border impact. The degree of local and public participation is unprecedented; including strong representation on the BECC's Board of Directors and Advisory Council.

NADBank is an international institution established by joint agreement solely between Mexico and the US. Each country has equal rights and obligations and contributed equally to the Bank's capital holdings. The Bank acts as an investment bank. Its lending policies are designed to assist in financing border environmental infrastructure projects as a complement to other public and private sources, including grants. NADBank can provide funding to public or private entities. It has the authority to provide financing through long-term loans and guarantees to bring together all available sources of funding.

What is the Cal/BECC?

On July 22, 1994, at the 48th General Assembly of the Commission of the Californias, the Governors of California, Baja California and Baja California Sur, signed a Joint Resolution which amended their bylaws to create the Californias Environmental Cooperation Committee (Cal/BECC). Cal/BECC, an

alliance between the three Californias, is charged with identifying mutually agreed upon environmental infrastructure needs along the California-Baja California border region, and seeking government and private sector funding for those projects. More specifically, Cal/BECC works to help border and tribal communities achieve certification from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and secure financial support from the North American Development Bank (NADBank).

Composition of Cal/BECC

Cal/BECC has an eight member Board of Directors. Three are from California: Secretary for Environmental Protection, Secretary of Trade and Commerce and one public member from the Commission of the Californias. Three are from Baja California: The Secretary of Economic Development, Secretary of Human Settlements and Public Works and the Director of Ecology. The Secretary for Urban Development and Ecology and Secretary for Economic Development from Baja California Sur are the seventh and eighth member. The Chair is rotated annually between California and Baja California.

Border Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Cal/BECC is embarking in the development of a California-Baja California Environmental Infrastructure Needs Assessment Report. This report will highlight California and Baja California environmental infrastructure needs and identify projects that can qualify for construction and technical assistance grants and loans from the BECC and the NADB. We encourage you to participate in this effort by submitting your project proposals to:

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